



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office of Religious Education

Dear Parents,

As the Director of Religious Education at St. Francis Xavier Parish, I would like to invite you to take advantage of our Religious Education Programs set up to help your child grow in their Catholic faith and to help them prepare for the sacraments. Starting in July, we are taking early registrations for your child's continuing Religious Education in our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Programs. If you have a child in grades Kindergarten – 10th, and they do not attend a Catholic School, they should be registered in the Faith Formation Program which meets weekly at the parish starting in September.

Please understand, according to Diocese of Venice Guidelines, that when your child receives a sacrament (First Holy Communion (grade 2) or Confirmation (grade 10)) that it is a two CONSECUTIVE year process. Meaning, if your child was not in Faith Formation last year and is entering the 2nd grade this year, they will receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion in the 3rd grade, after completing at least one full year prior. Confirmation is administered in the 10th grade, provided they were in Faith Formation last year in the 9th grade, or were in Catholic School.

If you child attends St. Francis Xavier School or Bishop Verot, they receive their Faith Formation at their school so they do not need to sign up for weekly Faith Formation Classes, however, if they are to receive a sacrament this year (First Holy Communion in the second grade, or Confirmation in the tenth grade), then they only need to register for the Sacramental Prep Class (Sacramental Preparation Classes are once a month starting in November) and youth group for Confirmation Students (grades 9 & 10).

Registration packets are available in the main entrance of the church, the parish office, or online at our website: www.stfrancisfm.org. Please fill out ALL 4 FORMS (Registration, Medical Authorization, Photo Image Release, and Third Party Pickup Release). Please fill out one set of forms **per child**, and bring them completed with you to the parish office, along with registration fees, and a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

We will also be taking registrations after all Masses on the weekends of August 18th & 19th and August 25th & 26th. To save yourself some time, please download the forms from the website listed above and bring the completed forms with you. Or take a registration packet from the registration table and bring it back with you.

The fee for the Faith Formation programs is only \$45 per child or just \$60 for a family. Sacramental Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are an additional \$30. There is no charge for St. Francis Xavier School and Bishop Verot Students taking the Sacramental Preparation Classes. Please present payment and a copy of baptismal certificate at the time of registration. Scholarships are available to those who qualify, please do not let the fees prevent you from registering. Please contact me if you need scholarship information.

Registration fees only cover a small portion of the actual cost to the parish, so you must be registered with the parish in order to register in the Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Classes.

Public School parents/guardians (no children please) are required to attend orientation on Wednesday, August 29th, at 6:00p.m. in Xavier Hall, for information and expectations of the entire year. Classes start on September 5th and will be Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30p.m., meeting in Xavier Hall. Parents should stay every week for our Adult Faith Formation program at the same time.

Catholic School Parents who register for Sacramental Preparation Classes (for First Holy Communion and Confirmation) do not need to attend the orientation on Wednesday, August 29th. You will receive a letter in the mail with a schedule of the Sacramental Preparation Classes (which start in November) after you register. If your child is registering for Confirmation, then they must register and attend High School Youth Group which starts in September.

I look forward to seeing your early registrations come in or seeing you on our registration weekends!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Michael Reardon
Director of Religious Education